(d) Airfield Environment Management Committee have been set up at all the operational airports to identify sources of stray animals/ bird attraction at the airport and take appropriate action. The primitive slaughter houses are being replaced with modern abattoirs with all the elaborate facilities. Aircraft Act, 1934 has been amended to make disposal of garbage in the open within 10 Kms. of the airport as a cognizable offence. Besides, number of major steps such as grass cutting, bird shooting, wire meshing of hangars, fencing of airport periphery, regular joint inspection of the areas aroumd the airport, deployment of watch & ward staff during aircraft operations etc. are taken to reduce animal/bird menace at airports.

Purchase of executive jets from Brazil

660. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase executive private jets named 'Legacy' from Brazil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for purchasing these aircrafts from Brazilian aircraft maker; and

(d) the estimated cost of each aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (d) Government has decided to purchase five 19-seater Executive Jets from M/s Embraer, Brazil for VIP communication duties of which four are for Indian Air Force and one for Border Security Force. The Brazilian aircraft was short-listed after technical evaluation alongwith other offers and the final selection was done on the basis of the lowest price.

New runway at Mangalore Airport

661. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to construct a new runway at the Bajpe Airport, Mangalore, to enable larger aircrafts to land and take off from the Airport; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the time schedule for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India has undertaken the construction of a new runway of 8000 feet length to enable larger aircraft to land and take-off from Bajpe Airport, Mangalore. The work is expected to start during the current financial year and likely to be completed in two years.

Unauthorised travel in Air India flights

662. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported travelling of unauthorised persons by Air India flights to various places with the help of Air India staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against such people and the staff involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI)I : (a) to (c) four inadmissible passengers were intercepted by Immigration Service of the United Kingdom at the London Heathrow Airport after they arrived on Air India flight AI-111 of 20th October, 2001.Two out of the four passengers suspected to be Afghan nationals had checked in as Domestic Passengers for Delhi but travelled onwards to London on the same flight whereas, the other two passengers had boarded the flight at New Delhi and travelled to London on forged. A High Level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of secretary (Security). Cabinet Secretariat to enquire into the incident, found involvement of two travel agents and four employees of Air India Limited. The two agents were arrested by Mumbai police and a chargesheet has been filed against them which is pending trial before the Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Mumbai. Out of the four employees in Air India, the services of one Assistant Manager has been terminated for his alleged involvement in the stowaway case and the remaining three officials have been transferred from Chatrapati Shivaji International Airport to the Air India Headquarters, Mumbai for their suspected involvement in abetting illegal activities.